



# Shawnee Notes

*June 2014*  
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## **Recreation...**

- The District collaborated to hold 2 Shawnee National Forest (Forest) Kids Fishing Derbies this year at Lake Glendale and Oakwood Bottoms Recreational Areas.

## **Resources...**

- The Shawnee planted over 27,000 oaks in the Big Muddy River Bottomlands.
- The Shawnee began the early stages of hill prairie restorations in Alexander County. Several hill prairie communities were identified at the Ozark Hill Prairie Natural Area. Saw crews began removing the encroaching trees and shrubs on approximately 2 acres in an effort to restore the characteristics of woodland and barren community.
- Crews completed the cruising activities for the Ramsey Branch Timber Sale Project.
- Natural resource and wilderness team members pulled and treated 43 acres of garlic mustard across the Forest.
- The Natural Resource Equipment Crew mowed 6 lake dams and several managed fish ponds on the Forest.
- Natural resource personnel planted 30 acres of dove fields in our managed openland sites.
- Bobwhite quail call count surveys were conducted in June to monitor the response to our openland management activities.
- In partnership with Ducks Unlimited, the Shawnee and a local farmer completed a 113 acre wetland restoration project near the Big Muddy River in Jackson County. This is the first project completed under the recent Bottomlands of the Great Rivers - North American Wetland Conservation Act Grant.
- The planning phase of the Phragmites and Reed Canarygrass Management Project has begun. This is a proposal to treat all populations of these two species while populations are small.

## **Wilderness...**

- Field monitoring for the 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge is complete in 5 wilderness areas and nearing completion in the 2 remaining wilderness areas.
- 5 acres of garlic mustard have been pulled in Garden of the Gods, Panther Den and Bald Knob Wilderness areas.
- Wilderness campsites have been removed in Panther Den, Burden Falls, Garden of the Gods, Lusk Creek and Bay Creek Wilderness areas.
- 3 volunteers are being trained as Wilderness Rangers.
- New information board signs with wilderness education messages have been installed at Lusk Creek, Panther Den, Garden of the Gods, Bald Knob and Clear Springs Wilderness areas.

## **Survey...**

- Survey crew posted 2.46 miles of new boundary line.
- District staff maintained 6.74 miles of boundary line.

## **Engineering...**

- Finished repairs to the main electrical system at Lake Glendale. The power went down early last fall due to a break in the line. Electricians came in and tested the system to locate the break and make the repairs. Repairs were finished mid-June.

- Johnson Creek well drilling and construction of the pump house was completed in April. Potable water tests and training on operation of the system was completed by June and the system was recently put into operation.
- The boat dock at Johnson Creek was replaced early this spring with a new floating dock and repairs made to the concrete approach to improve access.
- The Eddyville warehouse received a new heating and air system in the office for the trail crew as well as a new heater in the work bay.
- Electricity was added to Pounds Hollow Campground. Work that began two years ago to provide electrical hook-ups to one of the campground loops was completed and brought on-line this spring with the helpful hands of the Golconda Job Corps students and staff.
- Jonesboro office foundation repairs were completed. New drain tile was installed and a separation wall was added to prevent water from coming through the basement walls. Roofing repairs were also completed at Vienna and Jonesboro early this summer.

#### **Conservation Education...**

- Fish Tales was held in April at Pounds Hollow with 30 students.
- Several Smokey Bear programs were conducted during the reporting quarter, reaching 96 participants.
- The annual ArborWild program was held in June at Harrisburg and Carbondale City Parks with a total of 189 participants.

#### **Public Affairs...**

- The Shawnee National Forest MyOnCell mobile interpretive tour was debuted with most of the location signs installed and ready for public use.
- Smokey Bear threw out the first pitch at the Southern Illinois Miners baseball game on family night.
- A Project Wet workshop for new facilitators was held with attendees from the tri-state region participating.
- The Shawnee launched a new "Living Next Door to the Shawnee National Forest" brochure. The publication was finalized and made available to the public in hard copy and on the Forest's external website.

#### **Youth Conservation Corps...**

- Seven local youths are enrolled in the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC).
- Helped maintain 2.9 miles of trails.
- YCC crew maintained 6 trailheads
- YCC crew spent a week working on a project related to an original road segment that was used during the Cherokee Trail of Tears march at the Hamburg Hill site on the Forest.

#### **Heritage...**

- **Dirt Detectives** – Over the last several months, the Heritage Program's Dirt Detective conservation education project was enjoyed by 522 southern Illinois youngsters. Students learned about archaeology and the information found in archaeological excavations through hands-on pretend archaeological site situation activities.
- The Shawnee National Forest received a grant for \$100,000 from the National Park Service for trail improvements and interpretive signing at Hamburg Hill.
- **Special Emphasis Program Management** – Forest personnel attended a job fair with a contingent of 200 retiring Army personnel at Fort Knox, KY. Through a program called Operation Warfighter, federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service have the ability to take on retiring military personnel as interns in a job training program.

**Volunteers...**

- Total Cumulative Volunteer Hours: 2,012.5
- Total Cumulative Volunteers: 169
- A total of 7 service volunteer days were hosted in Panther Den Wilderness and Garden of the Gods Wilderness.

**Fire...**

- In April, the Forest completed 3 burns for a total of 752 acres. The Forest also had 5 wildfires that burned four acres of national forest land.
- In June, the fire program was awarded funding of \$195,000 to implement actions in the Makanda Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The funding covers the hiring of a coordinator, conducting public education and outreach events, conducting numerous fire risk assessments of private property, and doing hazardous fuel reduction and ecosystem health treatments on about 282 acres of private land and 300 acres of Giant City State Park.